



The Caribbean-American Political Action Committee

1015 18th Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C., 20036 | 202-349-1498

www.CaribbeanPac.org

Issued by President Donna M. Christensen, MD,
Washington, D.C : 12/9/2024

The Caribbean American PAC is pleased to join in support of what we hope and pray will be the last and finally a successful request for a presidential exoneration of one of the most prominent and influential leaders of the civil rights movements in the first half of the 20th century: Marcus Mosiah Garvey

Officially recognized Jamaica's first National Hero—Marcus Garvey was wrongfully convicted by a U.S. court of mail fraud - a conviction that intentionally stalled his movement for racial justice, social progress and economic independence for all peoples of the African diaspora.

In an effort to redress this grievous, decades-old wrong, a petition by Marcus Garvey's descendants has long and repeatedly been filed, urging reconsideration of Garvey's unjust arrest, trial and incarceration in 1923. President Calvin Coolidge's commuted his sentence in 1927, but the injustice remains.

We of the Caribbean American PAC revere, recognize and are committed to the monumental significance of Garvey's crusade, embodied in the Universal Negro Improvement Association, to improve the lives of African-Americans and all people of African descent

In 2016, we worked closely with our Congressional Black Caucus colleagues to press the Obama administration, up to the 11th hour, for an exoneration. Again in 2022 we joined with others on a global effort to collect the 100,000 signatures required to petition President Biden for this great leader's exoneration. Not having received a response to our recent petitions - efforts that began with Congressman Charles Rangel in the 1980's - our efforts and those of countless other organizations have not abated!

We acknowledge that presidential pardons and exonerations are rare. However, the fact that his conviction was:

- motivated by a desire on the part of the federal government to discredit, disrupt and destroy Garvey's civil rights movement;
- executed through covert surveillance and deception, with undercover agents posing as Garvey supporters; and
- aided by judicial proceedings that have been condemned as factually unsound and politically and racially motivated

speaks to the extent and gravity of the injustice perpetrated against Garvey.

Almost 100 years later, his descendants and supporters believe and assert that the time has come for President Biden, who is acutely sensitive to issues of injustice and the pain it causes families, loved ones, and actually entire communities, to clear and entirely exonerate this revered, pioneering civil rights figure who sought and fought to uplift all peoples of African descent.

The words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. define the profound significance of the life work of Marcus Mosiah Garvey:

"[Garvey] was the first man on a mass scale and level to give millions of Negroes a sense of dignity and destiny, and make the Negro feel that he was somebody."

We commend and applaud the organizers of the Grey Black Minimalist Social Justice Event, the Center For Global Africa, the producers of the Legacy Movement film and the Students and Community Leaders in calling for this needed " Day of Action"! We wholeheartedly join you in that call!

1 Anguilla • Antigua and Barbuda • Aruba • The Bahamas • Barbados • Belize • British Virgin Islands • Cayman Islands • Cuba •
Dominica • Dominican Republic • Grenada • Guadeloupe • Guyana • Haiti • Jamaica • Martinique • Montserrat • Netherlands Antilles • Puerto
Rico • St. Kitts and Nevis • St. Lucia • St. Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago • Turks and Caicos • U.S. Virgin Islands